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Japanese Laid-Open Patent

d. Title of the invention transform

Laid-Open Number: Sho, 59-35488

Application Number: Sho 57-146561

Application Date: August 24, 1982

Applicant: Semiconductor Energy Laboratory, Co., Ltd.

2. A samiconductor device as claimed in claim to decree service as claimed in claim to decree in substantially intrinsic serior deductor rever is made of silicon or germanium to which inforces or half to exame an ing a desi-amorphous or introductor or the contractor.

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1. Title of the Invention SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

2. Scope of Patent Claim

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- A semiconductor device including a substrate or 1. a first electrode formed on the substrate, a non-single crystal semiconductor having at least one PIN junction on said electrode, and a second electrode on said semiconductor, characterized in that an intrinsic or substantially intrinsic semiconductor layer constituting said PIN junction contains at least oxygen having the impurity concentration of 5  $\times$   $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less or carbon contaminated in the form of a cluster having the impurity concentration of  $4 \times 10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less.
- A semiconductor device as claimed in claim 1, substantially intrinsic or said wherein semiconductor layer is made of silicon or germanium to which hydrogen or halogen element having a semi-amorphous or amorphous structure with lattice distortion.
- A semiconductor device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a P-type semiconductor layer or N-type semiconductor layer contains oxygen having the concentration of 5  $\times$   $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less.
- A semiconductor device as claimed in claim 1, 4. wherein a P-type semiconductor layer or N-type semiconductor layer is formed of a polycrystal semiconductor including a microcrystal a particle size of which is 30 to 150 Å or a fiber structure a crystal particle diameter of which is 150 to
- 3. Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to a photoelectric conversion device having at least one PIN junction, said device fabricated by using a high purity gas for semiconductor fabrication whose concentration of carbon or oxygen is decreased to an extremely low level, and to a process for fabricating the same.

An object of the present invention is to provide a photoelectric conversion device comprising a substrate, optionally having thereon a first electrode, and a non-single crystal semiconductor layer having at least a PIN junction fabricated by depositing layers of a P-type, an I-type, and an N-type semiconductor. In an intrinsic or a substantially intrinsic semiconductor layer (i.e., a semiconductor layer into which a P-type or an N-type impurity is added either accidentally or intentionally at a concentration of from 1 x 1014 to 5 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>) which gen rates photovoltaic f rce upon irradiation of light in the photoelectric conversion device according to the present invention, it is an object to decrease the concentration of oxygen or carbon which induces the generation of recombination centers or which enhances the insulating characteristics to a super low level.

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The object above is accomplished in the present invention by taking advantage of the molecular size of the reactive gas that is used in the device fabrication, for example, a gaseous silicide such as silane, polysilane, and silicon fluoride, or a gaseous germanium compound such as germane. More specifically, the reactive gases above have an effective molecular diameter of 4.8 Å or larger.

Accordingly, impurities having an effective molecular diameter (referred to simply hereinafter as "molecular diameter") of 4.5 Å or less, for instance, a gaseous oxide such as water ( $H_2O$ ), gaseous carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), and gaseous oxygen ( $O_2$ ); or a gaseous carbide such as methane ( $CH_4$ ), ethane ( $C_2H_6$ ), propane ( $C_3H_8$ ),  $CH_3OH$ , and  $C_6H_6$ ; can be adsorbed and separated from the reactive gas using a molecular sieve or a zeolite having an effective pore diameter in the range of from 2.9 to 4.65 Å.

The adsorption ability of the molecular sieve or the zeolite can be further enhanced to 50 times or more of its ordinary ability by cooling the adsorbent to a temperature in a range of from -100 °C to room temperature, preferably, in a range of from -70 to -20 °C.

In this manner, the initial intrinsic conversion efficiency of 6 to 8 % under an AM1 condition (100 mW/cm²) of a non-single crystal semiconductor, particularly, of an amorphous semiconductor, can be increased to a range of from 11 to 14.5 %.

Particularly in the I-type layer, i.e., the active semiconductor layer, the concentration of oxygen is lowered from the conventional level in a range of from 2 x 1018 cm<sup>-3</sup> to 4 x 1018 cm<sup>-3</sup> to a range not higher than 5 x 1016 cm<sup>-3</sup>, and preferably to a range of from 1 x 1016 to 1 x 1014 cm<sup>-3</sup>, and further lowering the concentration of carbon clusters to a level of 4 x 1017 cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, preferably, to a range of from 4 x 10 to 1 x 10 cm<sup>-3</sup>. Carbon clusters as referred herein signifies cluster-like carbon atoms that are combined by a plurality of C-C bonds inside the semiconductor. In this plurality of C-C bonds inside the semiconductor, is successfully ductor, for example, a silicon semiconductor, is successfully

lowered from the initial 1 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> to 1 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, and preferably, to a range of from 5 x  $10^{14}$  to 1 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>.

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Conventionally, inside a semiconductor, specifically a silicon semiconductor, oxygen atoms have been believed to locally form Si-O-Si bonds to impart insulating properties to the semiconductor. However, in case oxygen atoms aggregate into a cluster containing from several to several tens of atoms inside the semiconductor, the clusters then provide recombination centers for the electrons or holes. These recombination centers function as killers of the minority carriers which generate upon the irradiation of a light. has been confirmed that this clearly occurs in a non-single crystal semiconductor fabricated by a plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process. Furthermore, the dangling bonds of oxygen have found to function as N-type donor centers. Thus, it has been found that a semi-amorphous (semi-crystalline) structure-sensitive non-single crystal semiconductor having lattice strain is readily rendered N type-conductive.

Accordingly, it is believed particularly important from an industrial point of view to fabricate a structure-sensitive intrinsic semiconductor from which oxygen atoms are substantially removed. The oxygen atoms are preferably present at a concentration as low as possible, because they provide the donor centers. Intrinsic semiconductors as referred herein signify those having a Fermi level at approximately the center of the band width.

Considering carbon atoms, furthermore, ethane and other hydrocarbon compounds expressed by  $C_m H_n$  (where,  $m \geq 2$ ) have found to directly intrude into the semiconductor to generate a plurality of recombination centers. These recombination centers decrease the life time of carriers, and particularly, that of the holes.

In the light of the aforementioned circumstances, the semiconductor device according to the present invention is characterized in that impurities are removed from the silicon semiconductor. The device according to the present invention is also characterized in that said semiconductor comprises silicon added therein hydrogen or oxygen atoms as the principal components, because hydrogen and oxygen atoms function to neutralize the recombination centers, and that a trivalent or pentavalent impurity is added at a concentration of from 1014 to 3 x 1017 cm-3 to shift the Fermi level of the resulting semiconductor.

In general, silane molecules are less than 5 Å (more specifically, from 4.8 to 5 Å) in effective molecular diameter. Germane molecules are about 6 Å in diameter. (Polysilane are further larger in effective molecular diameter.)

Considering a reactive gas comprising molecules having the smallest effective molecular diameter, i.e., silane (monosilane) molecules, for instance, the gas contains other impurities as listed in Table 1.

Table 1

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	For Epitaxial	For Electronics
Purity (%)	99.99	99.9
Hydrogen (ppm)	300	3,000
Nitrogen (pp.m/	5	50
Oxygen	0.1	1
Argon	10	50
Helium	10	50
Methane	<b>5</b>	50
Ethane	0.1	0.5
Ethylene	0.1	0.5
Propane	0.1	0.5
Propylene	0.1	
Chloride	10	50
Water	3	5
Marci		

In a practical process of epitaxial growth of a semiconductor, the concentration of oxides and nitrides is lowered to about 1/30 of the nominal value due to the segregation effect which occurs during the gas-solid reaction. Accordingly, a substantially intrinsic semiconductor having a resistivity of 100  $\Omega\cdot$ cm or higher can be obtained.

In case of employing plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition in a temperature range of from 100 to 400 °C using glow discharge, however, a physical purification method taking advantage of the segregation can no longer be expected to take place.

It can be readily understood that in the case above using plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition, the impurities enumerated in Table 1 are directly incorporated into the semiconductor. Oxygen, in particular, wholly reacts with silane to provide reaction products. A part of silane molecules, more specifically, from 1 to 5 % of the entire molecules, is activated (ionized) by the plasma reaction. Accordingly, it has been found that silane is condensed inside the thin film semiconductor at an extrem ly high concentration

of from 2 x  $10^{18}$  to 4 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. This accounts for about 20 to 30 times the concentration of silane in gaseous state.

It is therefore found experimentally that it is extremely important to purify the reactive gas in the reaction apparatus before using it in plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process.

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Thus, more specifically, it is particularly important in the I-type semiconductor layer according to the device of the present invention to decrease the concentration of oxygen and carbon clusters to  $5 \times 10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower and to  $4 \times 10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, respectively. The very object of the present invention is to purify the semiconductor.

The present invention is described in detail referring to the accompanying figures.

Fig. 1 shows the scheme of an apparatus for fabricating the semiconductor device according to the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 1, a reactor (1) is equipped with an Referring furnace (21), substrates (22), a pair of external heating furnace (21), substrates (22), a pair of electrodes (3), (3), a high frequency generator (2) (for electrodes, a 13.56MHz or a 100KHz generator), another generator instance, a 13.56MHz or and decomposing the reactive gas, for (17) for activating and decomposing the reactive gas, for instance, a 2.45GHz generator or any which produces a microwave 1 GHz or higher in frequency, and an attenuator (18).

The microwave thus generated was supplied from an outlet protected by a ceramic member (19) to the reactor (1) maintained at a pressure of from 0.001 to 10 Torr. The entire reactor is covered with a shield (20) to prevent jamming from occurring. The electric field which develops upon depositing the thin film semiconductor on the substrates (22) using a the thin film semiconductor on the substrates (22) using a treactive gas is controlled to be in parallel with the surface reactive gas is controlled to be in parallel with the surface of the substrate. Furthermore, the reactive gases are arranged in such a manner that they make a laminar flow in parallel with the surface of the substrates when they are introduced into the reaction furnace.

The reactive gas is introduced from an inlet (7) using a carrier gas, for example, gaseous hydrogen whose concentration of impurities such as oxygen and water is lowered to 1 ppb or less, and preferably, to 0.1 ppb or less. In case of forming a thin silicon film, a gaseous silicide, In case of forming a thin silicon film, a gaseous silicide, i.e., silane, is introduced from an inlet (4). At the same i.e., silane, is introduced from an inlet (4) to 5,000 time, diborane diluted to a concentration of from 500 to 5,000 time, diborane diluted to a concentration of some some power using a P-typ impurity, hydrogen, as well as phosphine

diluted with hydrogen are introduced from inlets (5) and (6), respectively.

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The reactive gases above are introduced into the reactive furnace at a predetermined rate each via pairs of gas purifiers (11) and (14), (12) and (15), and (13) and (16), respectively. Molecular sieves or zeolite 3A, 4A, or 4.5A have an effective pore diameter in a range of from 2.7 to 4.65 Å, and are provided on the inlet side for the reactive gas of each of the gas purifiers. More specifically, molecular sieve or zeolite 4A having an effective pore diameter in a range of from 3.5 to 4.3 Å is used. The molecular sieves or zeolite 4A are expressed by a molecular formula  $Na(AlO_2)(SiO_2) - 27 - 3OH_2O$ , and molecular sieves or zeolite 4.5A are expressed by  $(K_4Zn_4)(AlO_2)(SiO_2) \cdot 27 - 3OH_2O$ . Furthermore, the gas passed through the molecular sieves or zeolite is passed through a deoxidizer, gas clean (GC-RX, manufactured by Nikka Seiko K.K.).

The chemical adsorptivity of the purifiers can be further increased by cooling them to a temperature in a range of from -70 °C to room temperature. For instance, the purifiers are cooled to -30 °C using electronic thermostat layers (8), (9), and (10). In case of hydrogen diluted phosphine, molecular sieves or zeolite 3A or 4A are used because the effective molecular diameter thereof are about 4.3 Å. Molecular sieves or zeolite 3A, 4A, and 4.5A are found all effective for silane and diborane.

For silane, molecular sieve or zeolite 4.5A is found particularly effective; in addition to oxygen which is apt to function as an N-type impurity, phosphine reduces the surface content to 0.01 ppb.

comprising a needle valve (25), a stop valve (24), a vacuum pump (23), and then through an outlet (26). The inner pressure of the reactor is thus maintained in a range of from 0.001 to 10 Torr, representatively, in a range of from 0.05 to 0.1 Torr.

Fig. 2 shows the characteristic curve of a semiconductor layer deposited using the apparatus illustrated in Fig. 1. A 1  $\mu$ m thick thin film of a non-single crystal semiconductor is deposited on a substrate, e.g., a glass substrate, at a substrate temperature of 250 °C in a reactor the inside pressure of which was maintained at 0.1 Torr. The conductivity upon irradiation of light (AM1) and dark

conductivity in relation with the high frequency output are shown in the graph.

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shown in the graph. Referring to Fig. 2, the curve (29) shows the change in photoconductivity with that in high frequency output, and the curve (30) shows the dark conductivity. If silane is used as it is without purification, as described in the foregoing, the initial impurities that are present in the gas cylinder are delivered into the semiconductor layer. Those impurities, particularly oxygen or carbon, renders silicon amorphous. Thus, two curves (29) and (30) are shown in Fig. 2. More specifically, a photoconductivity of  $10^{-3}~(\Omega\cdot\text{cm})^{-1}$  is obtained at a high frequency output of from 20 to 30 W, however, the crystallinity of a part of the semiconductor is impaired at the same time. Thus, the resulting silicon is rendered semiamorphous. This happens because oxygen atoms that are present as impurities in the semiconductor function as donor centers to impart the entire semiconductor N-type conductivity. Conclusively, an intrinsic semiconductor can be obtained by adding boron or any other impurity which imparts the opposite conductive type to the semiconductor at a concentration of from 1 x  $10^{17}$  to 3 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, or by controlling the high frequency output in a low region of from 1 to 5 W. However, either of means considerably lowers the photoconductivity to the order of from 10-5 to 10-4  $(\Omega \cdot \text{cm})^{-1}$ .

Instead of the conventional methods, the present invention employs a highly purified silane. More specifically, the silane gas for use in the present invention is sufficiently purified in gas purifiers (11) and (14) (Fig. 1). Moreover, gaseous silane is charged inside the gas cylinder after sufficiently purifying the gas.

As a result, photoconductivity curve (27) and dark conductivity curve (28) as shown in Fig. 2 are obtained for the thin film silicon according to the present invention.

The figure clearly reads that a high photoconductivity of  $10^{-2}$   $(\Omega \cdot \text{cm})^{-1}$  is obtained at low plasma discharge output of from 1 to 10 W, and that a low dark conductivity in a range of from  $10^{-9}$  to  $10^{-7}$   $(\Omega \cdot \text{cm})^{-1}$  is obtained. That is, a sufficiently high activation energy as an intrinsic semiconductor is obtained, and that a Fermi level of about a Eg/2+0.1<sub>-0.2</sub> eV is achieved.

The characteristics of the thin film silicon are studied in further detail. According to the results of X-ray diffraction, a poorly crystallized thin film is identified on the product obtained at a plasma discharge output of from 5 to

10 W. Assumably, a semi-amorphous semiconductor having an intermediate structure between amorphous structure and crystalline structure is formed in this case.

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When an intrinsic semiconductor is fabricated by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition in a temperature range of from 100 to 300 °C, for instance, at 250 °C, impurities inside silane tend to be incorporated into the semiconductor at a concentration from 30 to 100 times as high as that of a semiconductor fabricated by a simple CVD process or epitaxial growth. Thus, it can be readily understood that the use of an ultrapure silane as the starting material is the key of the process. By employing such silane gases of ultrahigh purity, a semiconductor with a low dark conductivity but with a high photoconductivity in a range of from 10-3 to 10-2 (  $\Omega \cdot cm$ )-1 can be obtained even when the product is obtained at a low plasma power output of from 2 to 10 photoconductivity of the product thus fabricated according to the present invention is well comparable to that of a single crystal silicon, i.e., 10-2  $(\Omega \cdot cm)^{-1}$ .

The present invention is particularly advantageous in that the desired semiconductor is producible at such a low plasma power output. More specifically, in fabricating a PIN junction as in the process of the present invention by sequentially depositing the P-, I-, and N-type layers in this order, a mixed layer is apt to form at the boundary of the layers differing in conductive type if a high plasma power output is applied. More specifically, a distinct boundary is preferably formed between the layers differing in conductive type. Thus, if this is attempted by applying a high plasma power output in case of forming an I-type layer on a P-type layer, for instance, the sputtering effect of the discharge damages the P layer.

In case a microwave at a frequency of 2.45 GHz is applied, the deposition rate of the thin film is found to increase to about 3 to 5 times that for the case referring to Fig. 2. The characteristics of the resulting thin film semiconductor are the same, but the deposition rate is increased because the ionization ratio of the reactive gas can be increased by applying power at a higher frequency of 2.45 GHz. More specifically, in case of depositing a thin film by flowing silane at a rate of 30 cc/minute under a pressure of 0.1 Torr, for instance, the deposition rate is as low as 1 to 3 Å/second if a high frequency plasma alone is applied.

However, the deposition rate can be increased to a range of from 10 to 15 Å/second by simply adding the microwave at a frequency of 2.45 GHz.

Fig. 3 is a graph obtained through an experimentation to show how the gas purifier is effective in purifying silane.

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Referring to the graph in Fig. 3, the abscissa shows the concentration of oxygen or carbon of the thin film. The concentration is determined by means of FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy). The ordinate of the graph shows the electric conductivity in case light is irradiated to the film.

If both a deoxidizer (14) and zeolite (11) are used, curves (45) and (46) are obtained for the resulting product. Curve (45) shows the change in characteristics of the thin film semiconductor containing carbon at a concentration of 3 x  $10^{19}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> while varying the oxygen concentration by applying deoxidation, and curve (46) represents the characteristics which vary in accordance with the change of carbon concentration while setting the oxygen concentration at a constant value of 1 x  $10^{19}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. At any rate, the conductivity is found to be as low as to fall in a range of from  $10^{-5}$  to  $10^{-4}$  ( $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ )-1 in case carbon and oxygen are incorporated in the thin film at a concentration of  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> and 3 x  $10^{19}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, respectively. It can be seen that the presence of oxygen atoms in the film considerably lowers the conductivity.

Further referring to Fig. 3, the curves (41) and (42) are drawn using the carbon concentration and the oxygen concentration as the parameters, respectively. More specifically, the former and the latter curves are for the cases in which oxygen and carbon are incorporated at a concentration of 3 x  $10^{15}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> and 4 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, respectively. A semiconductor having a photoconductivity in the order of  $10^{-2}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> ( $\Omega \cdot$  cm)<sup>-1</sup> can be expected by controlling the concentration of oxygen and carbon to 5 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower (43) and 4 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower (44), respectively. The conductivity is found to decrease by approximately one third every time the substrate temperature is lowered by 50 °C; more specifically, from 250 °C to 200 °C, and further to 150 °C.

To control the concentration of oxygen and carbon in the aforementioned values, it is particularly important to control the oxygen concentration in the starting silane to 0.03 ppm or lower. The oxygen concentration in silane can be further decreased to 0.01 ppm, and even to a level of 0.003 ppm by purifying silane in a temperature range of from -30 °C

to 0 °C. By setting the temperature of silane in the lower region above, the content of hydrocarbon  $C_mH_n$  impurities can be reduced to 0.1 ppm, and furthermore to 0.01 ppm. The concentration of the impurities can be even more decreased to below the detection limit of a mass spectrometer by lowering the purification temperature to -100 °C. The concentration of oxygen and carbon can be increased respectively to 1 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>3</sup> or higher; i.e., a concentration well beyond the detection limit of an FTIR.

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Such a high level of purification can be realized by controlling the total leak of the reaction system shown in Fig. 1 to 1 x  $10^{-10}$  cc/sec or lower, and preferably, to 1 x  $10^{-12}$  cc/sec or lower. Accordingly, the mechanism of the joints and the like in the system is also a key factor in achieving a high purity gaseous silane.

Referring to Fig. 4, a structure fabricated by using the fabrication apparatus in Fig. 1 is described. Referring to Fig. 4 (A), a transparent conductive film (33) is formed on a glass substrate (32), and a P-type silicon carbide ( $Si_xC_{1-x}$ ; 0 < x < 1, e.g., x = 0.8) or a P-type silicon semiconductor (34) is formed further thereon at a thickness of 100 Å. The entire system is then sufficiently evacuated using a cryo pump (45), and a purified silane is introduced therein to form an intrinsic semiconductor layer (31) to a thickness of 0.5  $\mu$ m. After evacuating the entire system again, a 200 Å thick N-type semiconductor layer (31) is further deposited thereon using silane containing 1 % phosphine. Finally, aluminum film (36) is vacuum deposited in a known manner.

The high frequency power output in the process above is controlled to 5 W while maintaining the substrate temperature of 200 °C. A conversion efficiency of 10.3 % is obtained.

The characteristics of the glass substrate can be further ameliorated by fabricating a photoelectric conversion device of a PIN junction type as illustrated in Fig. 4 (B).

Referring to Fig. 4 (B), a 200 Å thick P-type semiconductor layer (34), a 0.5 µm thick I-type semiconductor layer (33), and a 150 Å thick fibrous structured N-type semiconductor polycrystalline semiconductor layer (35) are deposited on a stainless steel substrate (32) using the apparatus as shown in Fig. 1. An ITO (indium tin oxide containing from 10 % or less of tin oxide) film is vacuum deposited thereafter as a transparent conductive film (43). An

aluminum auxiliary electrode (36) is provided thereon to obtain the final structure.

For the structure thus implemented and illustrated in Fig. 4 (B), the characteristic curve for the conversion efficiency taking the oxygen concentration in the intrinsic semiconductor layer as the parameter is given in Fig. 5.

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A conversion efficiency higher than 12 % is achieved under AM1 for an area of 1 cm² by controlling the oxygen concentration to 4 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, and particularly, to 1 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower. Furthermore, a curve factor exceeding 0.7 is obtained. In case of short circuit current, especially, a maximum value of 20 mA/cm² is achieved. The open voltage is in a range of from 0.86 to 0.93 V. A considerable improvement in the characteristics is observed by lowering the oxygen concentration and thereby purifying silicon.

In case of the example above with reference to Fig. 4 (B), the device is fabricated at a low temperature in a range of from 200 to 250 °C by using a polycrystalline fiber-structured semiconductor as the N-type semiconductor layer. For detail of the process, reference can be made to Patent Application No. 57-087801 (filed on May 24, 1982 by the present inventor).

The present invention has been described in detail above by specifically referring to a photoelectric conversion device having a PIN junction. However, the device according to the present invention may have at least two junctions by sequentially forming the layers in the order of PINPIN....PIN. This is an important application of the present invention. Moreover, the resulting structure may be integrated on a substrate.

The description of the present invention above refers specifically to a case using silane, and particularly, monosilane, as the gaseous silicide. However, the present invention is also effective for a case using polysilane such as disilane, so long as the effective diameter is large enough to be separated by a molecular sieve. Accordingly, the present invention is useful in case  $SiF_4$  is used, because the diameter of  $SiF_4$  molecules is as large as 5 Å. In case of germanium, a non-single crystal semiconductor  $Si_xGe_{1-x}$  (0 < x < 1) fabricated by using germane (GeH<sub>4</sub>) or pure Ge alone may be used for the I-type semiconductor layer of a PIN junction.

In the description above, a photoelectric conversion device comprising a single PIN junction is described. However,

the present invention is also effective for an insulated gate field effect semiconductor device having an NIN junction (i.e., a junction comprising, in this order, a source or drain, a channel forming region, and a source or drain) or a PINIP junction.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

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Fig. 1 is a scheme of a plasma enhanced chemical vapor reactor for use in the fabrication of a semiconductor device according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a graph showing the electric characteristics of a semiconductor obtained according to the present invention and that of a conventional intrinsic semiconductor.

Fig. 3 is a graph showing the change of electric characteristics of a semiconductor obtained according to the gas purification method of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a photoelectric conversion device according to the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the characteristics of a photoelectric conversion device according to a scheme shown in Fig. 4 (B).

Applicant for the Patent :

Semiconductor Energy Laboratory Co., Ltd.

Representative : Shunpei Yamazaki

- 6. CONTENTS OF AMENDMENTS
- (1) Amend the entire specification as shown in an attachment.
- (2) Amend Fig. 1 to incorporate reference numerals thereinto as shown in an attachment (written in red in a copy).

Amend Figs. 2, 3 and 5 as shown in an attachment.

Add Figs. 6 and 7 as shown in an attachment.

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#### SPECIFICATION

- 1. Title of the Invenion SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
- 2. Scope of Patent Claim
- 1. A semiconductor device including a substrate or a first electrode formed on the substrate, a non-single crystal semiconductor having at least one p-i-n junction on said electrode, and a second electrode on said semiconductor, characterized in that an intrinsic or substantially intrinsic semiconductor layer constituting said p-i-n junction contains at least oxygen having the impurity density of 5 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less or carbon mixed in the form of a cluster having the impurity density of 4 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less.
- 2. A semiconductor device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said intrinsic or substantially intrinsic semiconductor layer comprises a semiconductor which mainly contains silicon or germanium to which hydrogen or halogen element having a half-amorphous or amorphous structure with lattice distortion.
- 3. Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to a photoelectric conversion device having at least one PIN junction, said device fabricated by using a high purity gas for semiconductor fabrication whose concentration of carbon or oxygen is decreased to an extremely low level, and to a process for fabricating the same.

An object of the present invention is to provide a photoelectric conversion device comprising a substrate, optionally having thereon a first electrode, and a non-single crystal semiconductor layer having at least a PIN junction fabricated by depositing layers of a P-type, an I-type, and an N-type semiconductor. In an intrinsic or a substantially intrinsic semiconductor layer (i.e., a semiconductor layer into which a P-type or an N-type impurity is added either

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accidentally or intentionally at a concentration of from 1 x  $10^{14}$  to 5 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>) which generates photovoltaic force upon irradiation of light in the photoelectric conversion device according to the present invention, it is an object to decrease the concentration of oxygen or carbon which induces the generation of recombination centers or which enhances the insulating characteristics to a super low level.

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The object above is accomplished in the present invention by taking advantage of the molecular size of the reactive gas that is used in the device fabrication, for example, a gaseous silicide such as silane, polysilane, and silicon fluoride, or a gaseous germanium compound such as germane. More specifically, the reactive gases above have an effective molecular diameter of 4.8 Å or larger.

Accordingly, impurities having an effective molecular diameter (referred to simply hereinafter as "molecular diameter") of 4.5 Å or less, for instance, a gaseous oxide such as water ( $H_2O$ ), gaseous carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), and gaseous oxygen ( $O_2$ ); or a gaseous carbide such as methane ( $CH_4$ ), ethane ( $C_2H_6$ ), propane ( $C_3H_8$ ),  $CH_3OH$ , and  $C_6H_6$ ; can be adsorbed and separated from the reactive gas using a molecular sieve or a zeolite having an effective pore diameter in the range of from 2.9 to 4.65 Å.

The adsorption ability of the molecular sieve or the zeolite can be further enhanced to 50 times or more of its ordinary ability by cooling the adsorbent to a temperature in a range of from -100 °C to room temperature, preferably, in a range of from -70 to -20 °C.

In this manner, the initial intrinsic conversion efficiency of 6 to 8 % under an AM1 condition (100 mW/cm²) of a non-single crystal semiconductor, particularly, of an amorphous semiconductor, can be increased to a range of from 11 to 14.5 %.

Particularly in the I-type layer, i.e., the active semiconductor layer, the concentration of oxygen is lowered from the conventional level in a range of from 2 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> to 4 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> to a range not higher than 5 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, preferably to a range of from 1 x  $10^{18}$  to 1 x  $10^{14}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, and further lowering the concentration of carbon clusters to a level of 4 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, preferably, to a range of from 1 x  $10^{18}$  to 1 x  $10^{14}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. Carbon clusters as referred herein signifies cluster-like carbon atoms that are combined by a plurality of C-C bonds inside the semiconductor. In this

manner, the density of recombination centers inside a semiconductor, for example, a silicon semiconductor, is successfully lowered from the initial 1 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> to 1 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, and preferably, to a range of from 5 x  $10^{14}$  to 1 x  $10^{16}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>.

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Conventionally, inside a semiconductor, specifically a silicon semiconductor, oxygen atoms have been believed to locally form Si-O-Si bonds to impart insulating properties to the semiconductor. However, in case oxygen atoms aggregate into a cluster containing from several to several tens of atoms inside the semiconductor, the clusters then provide recombination centers for the electrons or holes. These recombination centers function as killers of the minority carriers which generate upon the irradiation of a light. has been confirmed that this clearly occurs in a non-single crystal semiconductor fabricated by a plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process. Furthermore, the dangling bonds of oxygen have found to function as N-type donor centers. Thus, it has been found that a semi-amorphous (semi-crystalline) structure-sensitive non-single crystal semiconductor having lattice strain is readily rendered N type-conductive.

Accordingly, it is believed particularly important from an industrial point of view to fabricate a structure-sensitive intrinsic semiconductor from which oxygen atoms are substantially removed. The oxygen atoms are preferably present at a concentration as low as possible, because they provide the donor centers. Intrinsic semiconductors as referred herein signify those having a Fermi level at approximately the center of the band width.

Considering carbon atoms, furthermore, ethane and other hydrocarbon compounds expressed by  $C_m H_n$  (where,  $m \geq 2$ ) have found to directly intrude into the semiconductor to generate a plurality of recombination centers. These recombination centers decrease the life time of carriers, and particularly, that of the holes.

In the light of the aforementioned circumstances, the semiconductor device according to the present invention is characterized in that impurities are removed from the silicon semiconductor. The device according to the present invention is also characterized in that said semiconductor comprises silicon added therein hydrogen or oxygen atoms as the principal components, because hydrogen and oxygen atoms function to neutralize the recombination centers, and that a trivalent or pentavalent impurity is added at a concentration

of from  $10^{14}$  to 3 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> to shift the Fermi level of the resulting semiconductor.

In general, silane molecules are less than 5 Å (more specifically, from 4.8 to 5 Å) in effective molecular diameter. Germane molecules are about 6 Å in diameter. (Polysilane are further larger in effective molecular diameter.)

Considering a reactive gas comprising molecules having the smallest effective molecular diameter, i.e., silane (monosilane) molecules, for instance, the gas contains other impurities as listed in Table 1.

Table 1

•	For Epitaxial	For Electronics
Purity (%)	99.99	99 <b>.</b> 9
Hydrogen (ppm)	300	3,000
Nitrogen	5	÷ 50
Oxygen .	0.1	1
Argon	10	50
Helium	10	50
Methane	. 5	50
Ethane	. 0.1	0.5
Ethylene	0.1	0.5
Propane	0.1	0.5
Propylene	0.1	0.5
Chloride	10	. 50
Water	3	5

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In a practical process of epitaxial growth of a semiconductor, the concentration of oxides and nitrides is lowered to about 1/30 of the nominal value due to the segregation effect which occurs during the gas-solid reaction. Accordingly, a substantially intrinsic semiconductor having a resistivity of 100  $\Omega$ ·cm or higher can be obtained.

In case of employing plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition in a temperature range of from 100 to 400 °C using glow discharge, however, a physical purification method taking advantage of the segregation can no longer be expected to take place.

It can be readily understood that in the case above using plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition, the impurities enumerated in Table 1 are directly incorporated into the semiconductor. Oxygen, in particular, wholly reacts with silane to provide reaction products. A part of silane molecules, more specifically, from 1 to 5 % of the entire molecules, is activated (ionized) by the plasma reaction.

Accordingly, it has been found that silane is condensed inside the thin film semiconductor at an extremely high concentration of from 2 x  $10^{18}$  to 4 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. This accounts for about 20 to 30 times the concentration of silane in gaseous state.

It is therefore found experimentally that it is extremely important to purify the reactive gas in the reaction apparatus before using it in plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process.

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Thus, more specifically, it is particularly important in the I-type semiconductor layer according to the device of the present invention to decrease the concentration of oxygen and carbon clusters to  $5 \times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower and to  $4 \times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, respectively. The very object of the present invention is to purify the semiconductor.

The present invention is described in detail referring to the accompanying figures.

Fig. 1 shows the scheme of an apparatus for fabricating the semiconductor device according to the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 1, a reactor (1) (diameter of 35 mm Ø) is equipped with an external heating furnace (21), substrates (22), a pair of electrodes (3), (3), a high frequency generator (2) (for instance, a 13.56MHz or a 100KHz generator), another generator (17) for activating and decomposing the reactive gas, for instance, a 2.45GHz generator or any which produces a microwave 1 GHz or higher in frequency, and an attenuator (18).

The microwave thus generated was supplied from an outlet protected by a ceramic member (19) to the reactor (1) maintained at a pressure of from 0.001 to 10 Torr. The entire reactor is covered with a shield (20) to prevent jamming from occurring. The electric field which develops upon depositing the thin film semiconductor on the substrates (22) using a reactive gas is controlled to be in parallel with the surface of the substrate. Furthermore, the reactive gases are arranged in such a manner that they make a laminar flow in parallel with the surface of the substrates when they are introduced into the reaction furnace.

The reactive gas is introduced from an inlet (7) using a carrier gas, for example, gaseous hydrogen whose concentration of impurities such as oxygen and water is lowered to 1 ppb or less, and preferably, to 0.1 ppb or less. In case of forming a thin silicon film, a gaseous silicide, i.e., silane, is introduced from an inlet (4). At the same

time, diborane diluted to a concentration of from 500 to 5,000 ppm using a P-type impurity, hydrogen, as well as phosphine diluted with hydrogen are introduced from inlets (5) and (6), respectively.

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The reactive gases above are introduced into the reactive furnace at a predetermined rate each via pairs of gas purifiers (11), (14), (12), (15), (13), (16), respectively. Molecular sieves or zeolite 3A, 4A, or 4.5A have an effective pore diameter in a range of from 2.7 to 4.65 Å, and are provided on the inlet side for the reactive gas of each of the gas purifiers. More specifically, molecular sieve or zeolite 4A having an effective pore diameter in a range of from 3.5 to 4.3 Å is used. The molecular sieves or zeolite 4A are expressed by a molecular formula  $Na(AlO_2)(SiO_2) \cdot 27 - 3OH_2O$ , and molecular sieves or zeolite 4.5A are expressed by  $(K_4Zn_4)(AlO_2)(SiO_2) \cdot 27 - 3OH_2O$ . Thereafter, a gas clean for film oxygen (product name GC-RX) was coupled therewith. They are all made by Nikka Seiko K.K..

The chemical adsorptivity of the purifiers can be further increased by cooling them to a temperature in a range of from -70 °C to room temperature. For instance, the purifiers are cooled to -30 °C using electronic thermostat layers (8), (9), and (10). In case of hydrogen diluted phosphine, molecular sieves or zeolite 3A or 4A are used because the effective molecular diameter thereof are about 4.3 Å. Molecular sieves or zeolite 3A, 4A, and 4.5A are found all effective for silane and diborane.

In particular, it was effective that 4.5A is used for silane because of lowering the concentration of phosphine to 0.01 ppb or less except for oxygen which is an impurity that is liable to be made n-type in silane.

Evacuation is carried out using an evacuation system comprising a needle valve (25), a stop valve (24), a vacuum pump (23), and then through an outlet (26). The inner pressure of the reactor is thus maintained in a range of from 0.001 to 10 Torr, representatively, in a range of from 0.05 to 0.1 Torr.

Fig. 2 shows the characteristic curve of a semiconductor layer deposited using the apparatus illustrated in Fig. 1. A 1  $\mu m$  thick thin film of a non-single crystal semiconductor is deposited on a substrate, e.g., a glass substrate, at a substrate temperature of 250 °C in a reactor the inside pressure of which was maintained at 0.1 Torr. The

conductivity upon irradiation of light (AM1) and dark conductivity in relation with the high frequency output are shown in the graph.

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Referring to Fig. 2, the curve (29) shows the change in photoconductivity with that in high frequency output, and the curve (30) shows the dark conductivity. If silane is used as it is without purification, as described in the foregoing, the initial impurities that are present in the gas cylinder are delivered into the semiconductor layer. Those impurities, particularly oxygen or carbon, renders silicon amorphous. Thus, two curves (29) and (30) are shown in Fig. 2. More specifically, a photoconductivity of  $10^{-3}$  ( $\Omega \cdot cm$ )  $^{-1}$  is obtained at a high frequency output of from 20 to 30 W, however, the crystallinity of a part of the semiconductor is impaired at the same time. Thus, the resulting silicon is rendered semiamorphous. This happens because oxygen atoms that are present as impurities in the semiconductor function as donor centers to impart the entire semiconductor N-type conductivity. Conclusively, an intrinsic semiconductor can be obtained by adding boron or any other impurity which imparts the opposite conductive type to the semiconductor at a concentration of from 1 x  $10^{17}$  to 3 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, or by controlling the high frequency output in a low region of from 1 to 5 W. However, either of means considerably lowers the photoconductivity to the order of from  $10^{-6}$  to  $10^{-5}$   $(\Omega \cdot \text{cm})^{-1}$ .

Not in the above-mentioned conventional method, but in the present invention, the impurities, in particular, oxygen, water or hydrocarbon within silane are sufficiently removed after purification (11 and 14 in Fig. 1), and when the gas cylinder is to be filled with silane, filling is conducted with high purification.

As a result, photoconductivity curve (27) and dark conductivity curve (28) as shown in Fig. 2 are obtained for the thin film silicon according to the present invention.

The figure clearly reads that a high photoconductivity of  $10^{-4}$   $(\Omega \cdot \text{cm})^{-1}$  is obtained at low plasma discharge output of from 1 to 10 W, and that a low dark conductivity in a range of from  $10^{-11}$  to  $10^{-10}$   $(\Omega \cdot \text{cm})^{-1}$  is obtained. That is, a sufficiently high activation energy as an intrinsic semiconductor is obtained, and that a Fermi level of about a Eg/2+0.1-0.2 eV is achieved.

The characteristics of the thin film silicon are studied in further detail. According to the results of X-ray diffraction, a poorly crystallized thin film is identified on

the product obtained at a plasma discharge output of from 5 to 10 W. Assumably, a semi-amorphous semiconductor having an intermediate structure between amorphous structure and crystalline structure is formed in this case.

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When an intrinsic semiconductor is fabricated by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition in a temperature range of from 100 to 300 °C, for instance, at 250 °C, impurities inside silane tend to be incorporated into the semiconductor at a concentration from 30 to 100 times as high as that of a semiconductor fabricated by a simple CVD process or epitaxial growth. Thus, it can be readily understood that the use of an ultrapure silane as the starting material is the key of the process. By employing such silane gases of ultrahigh purity, a semiconductor with a low dark conductivity but with a high photoconductivity in a range of from  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-2}$  (  $\Omega \cdot cm$ ) -1 can be obtained even when the product is obtained at a plasma power output of from 2 to 10 photoconductivity of the product thus fabricated according to the present invention is well comparable to that of a single crystal silicon, i.e., 10-2  $(\Omega \cdot cm)^{-1}$ .

The present invention is particularly advantageous in that the desired semiconductor is producible at such a low plasma power output. More specifically, in fabricating a PIN junction as in the process of the present invention by sequentially depositing the P-, I-, and N-type layers in this order, a mixed layer is apt to form at the boundary of the layers differing in conductive type if a high plasma power output is applied. More specifically, a distinct boundary is preferably formed between the layers differing in conductive type. Thus, if this is attempted by applying a high plasma power output in case of forming an I-type layer on a P-type layer, for instance, the sputtering effect of the discharge damages the P layer.

In case a microwave at a frequency of 2.45 GHz is applied, the deposition rate of the thin film is found to increase to about 3 to 5 times that for the case referring to Fig. 2. The characteristics of the resulting thin film semiconductor are the same, but the deposition rate is increased because the ionization ratio of the reactive gas can be increased by applying power at a higher frequency of 2.45 GHz. More specifically, in case of depositing a thin film by flowing silane at a rate of 30 cc/minute under a pressure of 0.1 Torr, for instance, the deposition rate is as low as 1 to

3 Å/second if a high frequency plasma alone is applied. However, the deposition rate can be increased to a range of from 10 to 15 Å/second by simply adding the microwave at a frequency of 2.45 GHz.

Fig. 3 is a graph obtained through an experimentation to show how the gas purifier is effective in purifying silane.

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Referring to the graph in Fig. 3, the abscissa shows the concentration of oxygen or carbon of the thin film. The concentration is determined by means of FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy). The ordinate of the graph shows the electric conductivity in case light is irradiated to the film.

In addition, the impurity concentration of 1 x  $10^{19}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less was measured by use of SIMS (3F type made CAMECA Corp.) for investigation. The correction of the absolute amount was conducted on the basis of ion intensity obtained by adding a specific amount (for example, 1 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>) of injection to amorphous silicon by the ion implantation and measuring the added amount through the SIMS.

If both a deoxidizer (14) and zeolite (11) are used, curves (45) and (46) are obtained for the resulting product. Curve (45) shows the change in characteristics of the thin film semiconductor containing carbon at a concentration of 3 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> while varying the oxygen concentration by applying deoxidation, and curve (46) represents the characteristics which vary in accordance with the change of carbon concentration while setting the oxygen concentration at a constant value of 1 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. At any rate, the conductivity is found to be as low as to fall in a range of from  $10^{-5}$  to  $10^{-6}$  ( $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ )-1 in case carbon and oxygen are incorporated in the thin film at a concentration of  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> and 3 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, respectively. It can be seen that the presence of oxygen atoms in the film considerably lowers the conductivity.

Further referring to Fig. 3, the curves (41) and (42) are drawn using the carbon concentration and the oxygen concentration as the parameters, respectively. More specifically, the former and the latter curves are for the cases in which oxygen and carbon are incorporated at a concentration of 3 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> and 4 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, respectively. The photoelectric conductivity having the order of  $10^{-3}$  ( $\Omega$ cm)<sup>-1</sup> and the dark conductivity having the order of  $10^{-10}$  ( $\Omega$ cm)<sup>-1</sup> can be expected by controlling the concentration of oxygen to 5 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower (43). The conductivity is found to decrease by approximately one third every time the substrate

temperature is lowered by 50 °C; more specifically, from 250 °C to 200 °C, and further to 150 °C.

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For obtaining the oxygen and carbon densities, it is very important to contain oxygen (water) of 0.03 PPM or less within silane. In particular, when purification was made not at room temperature but at 0 to -30 °C, the impurity concentration of oxygen can be lowered to 0.01 PPM and 0.003 PPM. Also, the evacuate system is of a cryopump type so that the remaining water within the reactor is set to 0.1 PPM or less (arrival vacuum degree of 10-8 torr or less), thereby preventing inverse diffusion.

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As a result, CmHn could be lowered to 0.1 PPM or less. Further, when using silane which was subjected to physical purification of liquefaction and gasification, measurement cannot be entirely performed through a mass analyzer. Also, the concentration of oxygen and hydrogen within the semiconductor formed are 5 x  $10^{18}$  and 4 x  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less, respectively, and could exceed the detection limit for S1MS.

Of course, for obtaining the above-mentioned high purity, it is important to set the entire amount of leakage including the reactive furnace to 1 x  $10^{-10}$  cc/sec or less, preferably 1 x  $10^{-12}$  cc/sec or less. It is mentioned that a contrivance of a joint or the like is also important.

Referring to Fig. 4, a structure fabricated by using the fabrication apparatus in Fig. 1 is described. Referring to Fig. 4 (A), a transparent conductive film (33) is formed on a glass substrate (32), and a P-type silicon carbide ( $Si_xC_{1-x}$ ; 0 < x < 1, e.g., x = 0.8) or a P-type silicon semiconductor (34) is formed further thereon at a thickness of 100 Å. The entire system is then sufficiently evacuated using a cryo pump (45), and a purified silane is introduced therein to form an intrinsic semiconductor layer (31) to a thickness of 0.5  $\mu$ m. After evacuating the entire system again, a 200 Å thick N-type semiconductor layer (31) is further deposited thereon using silane containing 1 % phosphine. Finally, aluminum film (36) is vacuum deposited in a known manner.

The high frequency power output in the process above is controlled to 5 W while maintaining the substrate temperature of 200 °C. A conversion efficiency of 10.3 % is obtained.

The characteristics of the glass substrate can be further ameliorated by fabricating a photoelectric conversion device of a PIN junction type as illustrated in Fig. 4 (B).

Referring to Fig. 4 (B), a 200 Å thick P-type semiconductor layer (34), a 0.5  $\mu$ m thick I-type semiconductor layer (33), and a 150 Å thick fibrous structured N-type semiconductor polycrystalline semiconductor layer (35) are deposited on a stainless steel substrate (32) using the apparatus as shown in Fig. 1. An ITO (indium tin oxide containing from 10 % or less of tin oxide) film is vacuum deposited thereafter as a transparent conductive film (43). An aluminum auxiliary electrode (36) is provided thereon to obtain the final structure.

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For the structure thus implemented and illustrated in Fig. 4 (B), the characteristic curve for the conversion efficiency taking the oxygen concentration in the intrinsic semiconductor layer as the parameter is given in Fig. 5.

A conversion efficiency(49) higher than 12 % is achieved under AM1 for an area of 1 cm<sup>2</sup> by controlling the oxygen concentration to 5 x 10<sup>18</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower, and particularly, to 1 x 10<sup>18</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup> or lower. Furthermore, a curve factor(48) exceeding 0.7 is obtained. In case of short circuit current(47), especially, a maximum value of 20 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> is achieved. The open voltage is in a range of from 0.86 to 0.93 V. A considerable improvement in the characteristics is observed by lowering the oxygen concentration and thereby purifying silicon.

In case of the example above with reference to Fig. 4 (B), the device is fabricated at a low temperature in a range of from 200 to 250 °C by using a polycrystalline fiber-structured semiconductor as the N-type semiconductor layer. For detail of the process, reference can be made to Patent Application No. 57-087801 (filed on May 24, 1982 by the present inventor).

Figs. 6 and 7 are graphs showing the evaluation of very important reliability characteristic when considering the reliability of the photoelectric conversion device.

The figures show a curve (50) in which the photon number to be added to a sample when measuring the constant energy spectral characteristic is set to 1 x 10<sup>15</sup>/cm<sup>2</sup>. The axis of ordinate represents the normalization quantum efficiency (efficiency) with a maximum point of "1". The light of AM1 (100 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) is irradiated to that device for two hours. Thereafter, the photosensitive characteristic is changed as indicated by a curve (51), and it has been found that the characteristic is largely deteriorated and lowered by light of 350 to 500 nm. When it was subject d to heat

annealing process at 150 °C for two hours, the curve (51) changed to a curve (52). As a result, the characteristic exhibits that the curve is restored to the curve (50) at a short-wavelength light having 350 to 500 nm, but is not restored at a long-wavelength light having 600 to 800 nm. Therefore, a device was demanded which has the characteristic that is not deteriorated by the light irradiation and heat annealing process, that is, which is high in reliability without the Steabler Wronski effect.

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Fig. 7 illustrates the characteristic of the photoelectric conversion device in the case where the average oxygen concentration within the I-type semiconductor is  $5 \times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>.

When light irradiation (AM1) was conducted for two hours in correspondence with the curve (50) shown in Fig. 6, a curve (51) was obtained with the characteristic being slightly improved. When further conducting heat annealing process, the curve (52) was only slightly changed.

As a result, it has been found that the concentration of oxygen as the impurity within the I-type semiconductor layer is very important to stabilization of the characteristic (prevention of deterioration). In addition, it has been found that the deterioration is remarkably reduced when the concentration of oxygen is at least 5 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. Further, as to the light irradiation effect (Steabler Wronski effect), higher reliability could be obtained by further reducing the concentration of oxygen. Moreover, as is apparent from Fig. 5, the conversion efficient (curve (49)) is improved. enables the photoelectric transfer device to be produced. device in which the center of recombination due to the dangling bond of oxygen in the I-type semiconductor layer is reduced, the diffusion length of holes is extended, and the width of a depletion is only 0.1  $\mu$  with the oxygen concentration of 1 x  $10^{20}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, becomes 0.4  $\mu$  or more at the time of 5 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less. Most preferably, in the case of dividing it wholly over the thickness thereof, the deice does not exhibit the deterioration at all.

As described above, according to the present invention, it has been found that the conversion efficient as the photoelectric conversion device is more improved as the density of oxygen or carbon, in particular, oxygen as the impurity is reduced, and also that the reliability is improved. Further, it has been found that the practical

oxygen impurity is 5 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less, more preferably 1 x  $10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> or less.

The present invention has been described in detail above by specifically referring to a photoelectric conversion device having a PIN junction. However, the device according to the present invention may have at least two junctions by sequentially forming the layers in the order of PINPIN....PIN. This is an important application of the present invention. Moreover, the resulting structure may be integrated on a substrate.

The description of the present invention above refers specifically to a case using silane, and particularly, monosilane, as the gaseous silicide. However, the present invention is also effective for a case using polysilane such as disilane, so long as the effective diameter is large enough to be separated by a molecular sieve. Accordingly, the present invention is useful in case SiF4 is used, because the diameter of SiF4 molecules is as large as 5 Å. In case of germanium, a non-single crystal semiconductor  $\mathrm{Si}_{\kappa}\mathrm{Ge}_{1-\kappa}$  (0 <  $\kappa$  < 1) fabricated by using germane (GeH4) or pure Ge alone may be used for the I-type semiconductor layer of a PIN junction.

In the description above, a photoelectric conversion device comprising a single PIN junction is described. However, the present invention is also effective for an insulated gate field effect semiconductor device having an NIN junction (i.e., a junction comprising, in this order, a source or drain, a channel forming region, and a source or drain) or a PINIP junction.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

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Fig. 1 is a scheme of a plasma enhanced chemical vapor reactor for use in the fabrication of a semiconductor device according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a graph showing the electric characteristics of a semiconductor obtained according to the present invention and that of a conventional intrinsic semiconductor.

Fig. 3 is a graph showing the change of electric characteristics of a semiconductor obtained according to the gas purification method of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a photoelectric conversion device according to the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the characteristics of a photoelectric conversion device according to a scheme shown in Fig. 4 (B).

Fig. 6 shows the constant energy spectral characteristic according to the conventional photoelectric conversion device.

Fig. 7 shows the constant energy spectral characteristic according to the photoelectric conversion device of the present invention.

Applicant for the Patent :

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## ① 日本国特許庁 (JP) ① 特許 出願公開

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⊕Int. Cl.3 H 01 L 31/10

❸公開 昭和59年(1984)2月27日

- 発明の数 1 審査請求 有

(全 15 頁)

### 60半導体装置

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願 昭57(1982)8月24日

番21号株式会社半導体エネルギ 一研究所内

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1.発明の名称

## 2.特許請求の範囲。 コニーパンドウェネルフラジー

- 1. 遊板さたは遊板上の第1の電板と、鉄電 :: 極上K PIH 接合を少なくとも1つ有する非 単結品半導体と、欧半導体上の第2の電観 とが設けられた半導体装置にかいて、前記 PIN接合を構成する実性されは実質的に実 性の半導体層は、少なくとも酸素を  $5 \times 10^{6} \, \mathrm{m}$   $^{\circ}$ cm 以下の不能物施皮さたはクラスタ状化・・・ 個人した炭素は 4×10<sup>11</sup>cm 以下の不鈍物表度。 **化合有したことを特徴とする単導体装置。**。
- 景文大はヘロガン兄弟が最無点れた理念法と、 の作業方法を買するの ランクフェブル 大はダルマニュームと見たることを発散と ⇒ 🗸

- 3. 特許請求の範囲第1項にかいて、P型半 導体層さたはヨ亜半導体層は、酸素が 5×10<sup>n</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>以下の装度に設加されたことを特 **私とする半導体装置。** 3.4.7.7
  - 4. 特許請求の報告祭1項にかいて、Pまた はま型半導体層は 50~150Å の粒径を有する タロタリスメルミたは 150~400Å の筋 **帯体が用いられたことを特徴とする半導体** 英化。

たは美質的に実性の半導体は<u>、格子薬を、水水、高純質の半導体製造用気体を用いて、PIN 接合</u> する中非晶質之大は非晶質視距を存する水。」、モタセくと含むつ有する先端安装数位かよびモ

放電視上に 223 接合を少さくとも 1 つ有する序

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単結晶半が体層を、P型平が体層、I型半導体層をは20世球体層を数別することにより取けた光型変換装置において、特に光照射により光起型力を発生する活性半導体層である真性または実質的に其性(PまたはH型用不純物が1×10<sup>4</sup>~6×10<sup>7</sup> cm<sup>3</sup>の優度に人為的またはバックグラウンドレベルで温入した)半導体に対し、特に超級性の助長または炭素を極低發度にすることを目的としている。

本発明は、かかる目的のため、半導体用の反応性気体例をは建化物気体であるシラン、ポリシラン、フッ化珪素、またゲルマニューム化物気体であるゲルマン等がその有効分子を径が4、8A以上を有するととを利用したものである。

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即ち、有効穴径が 2.5~4.65Å のモレキュラー シープまたはゼギライトを利用して、 4.5Å 以下 の有効分子直径(以下分子径という)を有する 不純物である酸化物気体例をは水(40)、炭酸ガ ス (0Q)、酸素 (Q)、土 た 炭化物 気体 例えばメタン (0B)、エタン (QB)、ブロペン (QB)、 QBOB、QB ・ なを 吸着、除去する ことを 目的 としている。

さらKとの政権力を助長するため、この化学 政治をする政権材を宝融~-1000 好ましくは -20~-700 K冷却し、さらKその政治能力を 50 倍以上高めるととを目的としている。

かくして従来PIM 接合を有する非単結晶半導体特にアモルフアス半導体が AM1 (100mW/cm²) の条件下にて 6~6%の変換効率しか出なかつたものを、11~16.5%にまで実性変換効率を高めることができた。

特にこの活性半導体機であるI層にかって、 その散素機度を従来の"2~(x10" om L) 6×10" om 以下好ましくは1×10"~1×10" om にまで低め、さらに半導体中に0—0 結合を多数有する、即ちクラスタ状に遇入した炭素を4×10" om 好ましくは4×10~1×10 om にまで下げることにより、半導体例とばシリコン半導体中の再結合中心の密度

を 1×10<sup>で em'</sup>より 1×10<sup>で</sup>em'以下好ましくは 5×10<sup>が</sup> ~1×10<sup>で em'</sup>にまで下げるのに成功したことを特 役としている。

とのだめ、かかるドナーセンダードなる原素 をする的に数去し、特殊的にARMを有す。其性

さらド炭米ドついても、エメン等 Om Hn (m2月) ドンいては、半導体中ドモのまま扱入し、再結 合中心を多く発生させてしまい、キャリア特ド ホールのライフタイムの減少をもたらしてしま つた。

本発明は、かかる不純物を飲去し、シリコン 半導体中は基果と再結合中心中和用に必要な水 果または酸素を主成分とし、さらにフェルミレ ベルモシフトさせるための目倒または V 値の不 純物を 0.0°~5x10° om\*) 数加したととを特徴としている。

従来シランは有効分子低を 5 点 器(4.6~64) 有 し、まだゲルマンは約 6 点を有している。(ポ リシラン等はさらに大きを有効分子低を有する) しかし、何えば最も有効分子低の小さいシラ ン(モノシラン)にかいて、その反応性気体中

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に合有される不純牧 べると、 製1の如くで ある。

**疫** 1

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•	エピタキシブル用	エレクトロニクス用
純皮(纟)	99. 99	99. 9
水紫 (ppm)	300	3000 ·
盆案	. 8	50
政案	0. 1	1
アルゴン	10	50
ヘリューム	10	50
メタン	5	80
エタン	0. 1	0. 5
エチレン	. 0. 1	. 0. 5
プロパン	· 0.1	0. 5
プロピレン	0. 1	09.5
填煤化物	10	. 80
水	3	5

これらを で、 特にこのエピタキシアル 成 長をさせる場合、 気相一固相反応の際、 酸化物 ⇒上び強化物は個折効果により、上記表1の約 1/30 に小さくなる。 このため比抵抗100公以上の実質的真性の半導体を得ることができる。

しかし、100~4000で行なわれるグロー放包を用いたプラズマ気相法にかいては、かかる物理精製である不純物の偏折効果を期待するととはできない。

とのため、表1のほう不純物はそのまま半導体中に混入した。特に酸素については、ナペ てシランと反応し、反応生成物を作る。シラン 自体については、プラズマ反応により活性化 (イオン化)が2~6%であり、そのため実質的 にガス状態よりもさらに約20~50倍に現代されて半導体膜中に混入してしまりことがわかつた。

とのため、反応性気体をプラズマ気相法用に 用いる時、その反応装置において精製すること がもわめて重要であることが実験的に判明した。

かくして、木発明においては、AM1にて変換 効率を10%以上保証するために、そのI層中に 健業は5×10<sup>%</sup>em<sup>®</sup>以下とし、さらにクラスメ状に

入した炭米ドかいても、 4×10<sup>7</sup>cm<sup>2</sup>以下である ととがをわめて重要である。かかる半導体の高 純変化を本発明は目的としている。

以下に図面に従つて示す。

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第1回は本苑明の半等体装置の作製に用いられた製造装置の板裏を示す。

図面にかいて、反応炉口に対し、外部加熱炉 は、基収は、一対を立す電電内、口、高周被発 扱器() (例えば 13、86MB せたは 100MB )、さら に反応性気体の活性化、分所を行立うため、 10MB 以上の局徴数のマイクロ被判えば \$ 480MB の発展的、アテニュエイター時を有している

セラミックス的で保護された放出部で、0.001 ~10torr に保持された反応炉()へマイクロ故を 放出させた。反応炉金件は電技服客のないよう にシールド的がなされ、反応性気体により当板 四上ド半球体膜を形成させるド語し、虹気エネルギの電界は、被形成面ド平行ド設けられている。また、反応性気体は被形成面ド平行ド層流を有するようド配置されている。

反応性気体はキャリアガス例えば破楽、水の
「IPP AT GILLS!
不純物は10.1PP A K まで下げた水素を(がより等
入させた。また、理楽膜を形成させようとする
場合、延化物気体であるシランを(4)より導入し
た。また、ア型用不純物である水素により 800
~6000PPM K 者取されたジボランを(6)より、また
同様に水素により者取されたフォスヒンを(6)よ
り導入した。

81Q) 27~30H<sub>2</sub>0 を 4A は示 また 4. 5A は(以Zn<sub>y</sub>) (A1Q) (810) 27~30H<sub>2</sub>0 の分子式で示されるものを用いた。さらにこの後に、膜酸素用のガスクリーン (商品名 O-RI)ともに 9 化精工級を用いた。

さらにとれらの精製器の化学吸着性を向上させるため、-700~室温、何えば-500には十個温 層(B)(B)(10)により冷却した。水準希沢されたフォ スヒンについては、その有効分子径が約 4.3A を 有するため、3A または 4A を用いた。また、シ ランまたはジボランに対しては、3A 4A 4.5A のいずれもが適用可能であつた。

特化シランに対しては、その中にあつてN化 しやすい不純物である酸素以外に、フォスヒン がその表面を 0.01PPD だまで下<del>間をす</del> 4.5A を 用いることが特に有効であつた。

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排気系はニードルパルプロ、ストップパルプ は、真空ポンプロをへて排気的させた。反応炉 内の圧力はニードルパルプロドより 0.001~10

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第2図は第1図の結果によつて得られた存住である。即ち、益板温度2500反応が内の圧力の.1torrとした時、基板例えばガラス上に非単結品半導体層を1mの厚さに形成した場合の光照射(AN1)なり、明4分である。

図面にかいて、シランに対しかかる初裂を行なわない場合、前にした如くのポンペ内での不純物がそのまま半導体層内に入り、特に収集されば炭素はシリコンを非晶質化する効果がたたか、図面にかいて20~30%の高周波出力にかいて、選定は10 (acm)を有するが、同時により、光伝導度は10 (acm)を有するが、同時によったのや半導体が一部4年中の不純物である改楽がドナーセンターとなり、N型型化してしまう。 お果として、実性半導体として用いる。 対象に添加するか、または1~6%の低い過

放出力:12/14 社ならない。 しかしこれらはい プれにかいても、光電気伝導度を 10<sup>7</sup>~10<sup>7</sup>(40m)<sup>7</sup> のオーダーにまで下げてしまう。

かかる従来の方法ではなく、本発明はシラン中の不純物を指数後(第1回(4)4)で十分飲去するともに、ポンペにシランを充填するに顕しても、十分なる指数をして充填したものである。

かくするととKより、第2回Kかいて先照射 伝導度効、暗伝導度効を得ることができた。

との図面より明らかな知く、光伝帯度がブラ メマ放電出力が1~10VKかいて10<sup>\*</sup>(4cm<sup>3</sup>)と大き く、加えて暗伝帯度が10<sup>\*</sup>~10<sup>\*</sup>(4cm<sup>3</sup>)と小さい。 即ち、其性半導体としての語性化エネルギは十 分大きく、フェルミレベルも55m 3m<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> eTを 有せしめることができた。

さらにこの特性を調べてみたところ、《私<sup>94</sup> 低にかいて舞い絵品化が 5~20V で得られる被原 少にかいてもみられ、とれらはアモルフアス構 造と結晶化構造の中間構造のセミアモルフアス (半卵晶質) 半導体といえるものであつた。

即ち、実性半導体をブラズマ気相法により 100~500g 何之ば 250g で得よりとすると、その時とのシラン中の不鈍物が単なる GVD またはエピタヤンアル成長に比べて 30~100 倍もの設定に入りやすい。そのため、2を4 4 での不鈍物の 3人を可能なかぎり少なくした超高純度シランを用いることはきわめて重要である。かくして2~10Vの低いプラズマ出力にかいても、暗伝導度が小さく、かつ光伝導度は単結晶の 10 (42m) と同一レベルの 10~10 (42m)の値を得ることがでまた。

特化かかる低い高層被出力で得られることは本発明の知くアIN接合を消次ア度、I 反, I 反と及用するに限し、その境界低級を置として明確にするため、即ちア暦上にI 層を表層する際、その主題数電のスペップが条により、下地ア暦をたたも、協一層を作つてしまりことを訪ぐこと

ができ、きわめて重要である。

さらに第2図にかいて、2.455Hsのマイクロ 波を加えると、反応性気体のイオン化率を高め るため、その特性は同様であつたが、被膜の成 長速度が約3~5倍に増し、大きくすることがで きた。例えばシランを3000/分、0.1torrで導 入し、高周波ブラズマのみでは1~5Å/秒と低か つたが、この場合は10~15Å/秒と高速成長させる ことができた。

第3図は本発明のシランの棺製に関し、ガス 棺製器の有効性を確認する実験をしたものである。

図面において、模軸は酸素さたは炭素の被膜中の機度を示し、とれは PIIR (フーリエ変換 方式の赤外線吸収スペクトル) で調べたもので あり、たて軸は光照射膜の電気伝導度を示す。

シラン系に 放散素精製器 (4、 センライト()を ともに用いた場合、曲線 (45), (46) が得られる。 曲線 (45) は炭素優度が 5×10" cm 3 個入した時の減 限来化を行なつた時の取来設定をパラメータとした限の特性であり、また曲線(のは取素設定1×10'on'K かける以来装定をパラメータとして得た特性である。いずれにしても及来、酸素の10'on'、3×10'on'区入した場合、伝染度は10'~10'(aon' しかなく、風吸素の混入が伝導度の低下をもたらす要因であるととがわかる。

さら K 図面 K ついては、曲線 (41), (42) は 改来 数度 5×10" cm²、 炭素養度 4×10" cm²を含有したも のであつて、それぞれ炭素養度、 酸素養度をパ ラメーチとして示している。 即ち特 K 酸素を 5×10" cm² 以下 (43)、炭素を 4×10" cm² 以下 (44)とす るとと K より、 元電気伝導度は 10 (4.cm)を 期待 するととができる。 基板の温度を 250° より 200 \*Q、150° と下げると約 1/3 ずつその伝導度は低 くなつた。

とれらの酸素、炭素酸底とするには、シラン中に酸素を 0.05PPM以下にすることがきわめて 速要であり、作に精鋭を上配室温ではなく、 00

-~300 とすると、酸果不純物酸度は 0.01PPM, 0.003PPM K まで下げることができる。また、 0mmm は 0.1PPM, 0.01PPM K まで下げることが できた。さらK ~1000 K すると、をそ 分析器 K て全く補定不可能である。また形成された半導 体層中の酸素、炭素養度も、1×10″cm′以上となり、PTIR の存金限界をこえることができた。

もちろん以上の如き高純度とするKは、第1 図K示された反応系Kかいても、その全体のリーク量は 1×10<sup>-1</sup>cc/cco 以下、好ましくは 1×10<sup>-1</sup>cc/cco 以下、好ましくは 1×10<sup>-1</sup>cc/cco 以下とすることが重要であり、 ジョイント等の 三種も重要であることを付記する。

第4 図は第1 図の製造装置を用いて形成した もので、図面(A)はガラス基板(SP上 K 遊判等電 裏(SP)、さらに P 型炭化産素(S1 x G/L O < x < 1) (例えば x = 0. のまたは P 型産素半導体(S4) K よ 身 100点 の厚さに形成した。さらにこの後、と の反応系をクライデポンプ(49 K て十分実空引 をした後、指載したシランにより実性半導体接 を 0.5 p の厚さ K (S1) として形成した。さら K 再び 大空引をして B 型 学 帯 休 層 (S1) を シラン K フォスヒンを 1 f の 数度 K 弘入して 200Å の 以 さ K 形成した。 との 後、 S か の アルミニュー よ G の を 実空 蒸煮して 設けたものである。

高周送出力は 5 V、 芸板温度 200g とした。 すると変換効率を 10.5% を得ることができた。

このガラス基板の特性をさらに改良するため 第4回回帰途の PIN 接合型光電変換接径を作製 した。

図面ドかいて、ステンレス当板でお上ド P 選半 等体層では I 選半等体層では I 図の数量構造を有 する多数品半等体層ではを第1 図の数量により、 それぞれ 200人 0. ★A 180人の厚さに形成した。 さらに透明等電板(4分を I T O (液化インジュー ム (液化スズ 0~10分)を実空高増し、アルミニ ニームの複数電板(50を 配けた。

以上の第6回回の辞遺K≫いて、真性半導体 層に洗入した酸素機度をベラメータとしたその

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第4図回の攻抗例において、3型半導体別を 根維格途を有する多結晶半導体とし、それを 200~2500の低温で作ることに関しては、本発 明人の出版になる特許風 かりがり (パパル) に示されている。

以上の説明において、PIN 接合を1つ有する 光電変換装置を示したが、これを登れてPINPIN ・・・・PIN 接合と少なくとも2 接合あらしめると とも本発明の応用として重要であり、またこれ らを蓋板上内 化してもよい。

また、これまでの説明ドかいては速化物気体としてション特ドモノションを示した。しかしシュラン 等のポリションに対しても、本発明はその有効粒径が大きいととドよりそれらを適用することが可能であり、また、BINK関しては同様にその分子径が 5Åと大きいため有効である。またゲルマニュームド関しては、ゲルマン(GeN)を用い非単結晶半導体として BixGen (O<x<1)または Ge のみを PIS 接合が有する I 型半導体層に用いることも可能である。

以上の説明にかいては、PIN 接合を1つ有する光電変換接置を主として説明した。しかし半導体層がHI またはPI接合を少なくとも1つ有する即ちH (ソース 1/15 / 1/12) - I (チャネル形成領域) H (パレイン またはソース)、PIP接合を有する絶縁ゲイト型電界効果半導体接低、または HIPIK PINIP 接合を有するトランジスタに対しても本発明はきわめて有効である。

#### 4.図面の簡単な説明

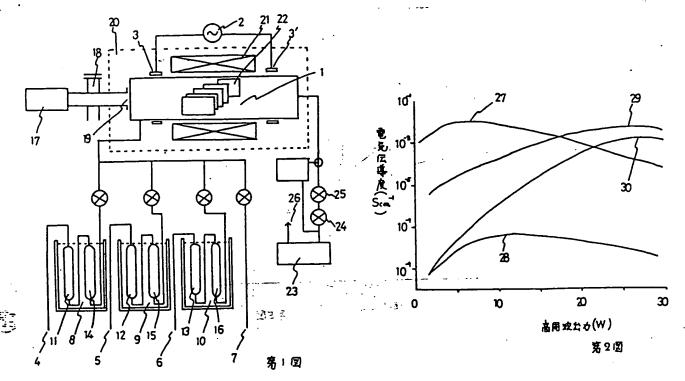
•

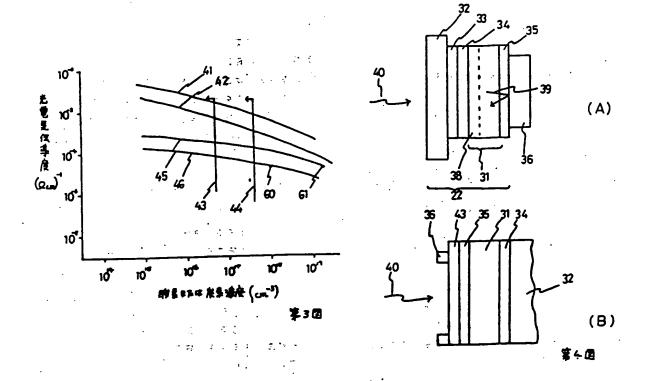
第1図は本発明の半導体装置作製用のブラズマ気相反応炉の根要を示す。 第2図は本発明 を従来の実性半導体の電気特性を示す。

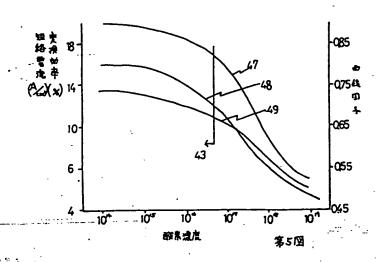
第3日は本発明のガス精製方法ドよつて得られた電気管性の変化を示す。

第4回は本発明の先電変換装置を示す。 第5回は第4回回によつて得られた光電変換 装置の14月性を示す。

> 神野出職人 独式会社平事体エネルギー研究所 代表者 山 崎 舜 (初年)







手 枝 福 正 書 (自兒) 図和58年8月8日

特許庁長官 取

1.事件の表示"

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爾和57年特許麗第146581号

- 2. 発明の名称
  - 坐课体整理
- 3. 補正をする者

事件との関係 帯野出華人

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4.福正の対象

明報書全文および護官

- 6. 雑正の内容
- (1) 明禄書金文を別紙のごどく補正する。
- (2) 第1回を別紙のごとく参与を挿入し、格正 する。 (コピーしたも に急音) 第2回、第3回、第5種を別紙のごとく被 正する。

第8個、第7回を関係のごとく挿入する。

明 輝 裏

1.発明の名称

半導件装置

- 2.特許請求の範囲
- 1. 基板または基板上の第1の電極と、熔電極上にPIR 接合を少なくとも1つ育する非単結晶単導体と、線単導体上の第2の電極とが設けられた単導体装置において、前記PIR 接合を構成する其性または実質的に其性の単導体層は、少なくとも酸素を5×10°cm<sup>4</sup>以下の不純物級度に会有したことを特徴とする単導体装置。
- 2. 特許請求の範囲第1項において、実性または 実質的に実性の半導体は、格子変を有する半 非品質または非晶質構造を有する水素または ハロゲン元素が議論された理素またはゲルマ ニュームを主成分とした半等体よりなること 性とする単導体算習。
- 3. 杂音 · 音量女務集

**特徴昭59-35488(9)** 

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本発明は、放送 は炭素を極低線度にした低高能度の半導体製造用気体を用いて、PIN 接合を 少なくとも1つ有する光電変換装置およびその作 製方法に関する。

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本発明は、基板または基板上の第1の電極と、 技術に上にPIN 接合を少なくとも1つ有する作用 転換をなりなくとも1つ有すの電極と非単 結局半導体層を、P型半導体層では、1型半導体層を設備するとによりが では、P型半導体をである。 では、ないでは、10m では、10m で

 るゲルマンの有効分子直径が4.8 人以上を 有することを利用したものである。

即ち、有効穴径が2.9~4.65人のモレキュラーシープまたはゼオライトを利用して、4.5人以下の有効分子直径(以下分子径という)を有する不続的である酸化物気体例えば水(H.O)、炭酸ガス(C.O)、酸素(O。)、また炭化物気体例えばメタン(C.R.)、エタン(C.R.)、プロパン(C.R.)、C.R.O.B. C. B. 等を吸着、除去することを目的としている。

さらにこの吸着力を助長するため、この化学吸着をする吸着材を室温~-100で好ましくは-20~-70 でに冷却し、さらにその吸着力を50倍以上に高めることを目的としている。

かくして従来PIN 接合を育する非単粒晶半導体特にアモルファス半導体がAM1 (100mM / cd) の条件下にて6~8 Mの変換効率しか出なかったものを、11~14.5%にまで真性変換効率を再めることができた。

特に、この活性半導体層である!層において、 その酸素濃度を従来の2~(×10 \*\* c = \*\* より5 ×

10° cm³以下好ましくは1×10°~1×10° cm²にまで低め、さらに半導体中にC—C結合を多数有する、即5、クラスタ状に混入した炭素を4×10° cm³以下野ましくは1×10°~1×10° cm²にまで下げることにより、半導体例えばシリコン半導体中の再結合中心の密度を1×10° cm²より1×10° cm²にまで下げるのに成功し、かつ光照射により光伝導度が劣化するいわゆるステブラ・ロンスキ効果を除去することを特徴としている。

 ドナーセンタとしても作用してしまい、非単結晶 半導体をアモルファスより格子歪を育する構造板 感性を持った半非晶質(半結晶質)とするとN型 化してしまうことがわかった。

このため、かかるドナーセンタになる酸素を本 質的に除去し、保盗的に敏感性を有する真性 (フェルモレベルがパンド巾のほぼ中央部) の半導体 を作ることは工業的応用を考える時もわめて重要 であった。

さらに炭素についても、エタン等Cella (m > 2) においては、単導体中にそのまま混入し、再結合 中心を多く発生させてしまい、キャリア特にホー ルのライフタイムの減少をもたらしてしまった。

本発明はかかる不純物を散去し、シリコン率導体は連貫と再結合中心中和度に必要な水滑または 発着を主成分とし、さらにフェルミレベルをシフトさせるための目標または V 値の不純物を(10<sup>th</sup> ~3×10<sup>th</sup> cs<sup>-1</sup>) 添加したことを一致としている。 使来シランは有効分子様を 5 人間(4.8 ~5 人) し、またゲルマンは約 6 人を一している。(ボ リンラン等はさらに大き 分子径を有する) しかし、例えば最も有効分子径の小さいシラン (モノシラン)において、その反応性気体中に合 育される不純物を腐べると、変1のごとくである。

**表** 

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	エピタヤシテル用	エレクトロニクスタ
純度 (火)	99.99	99.9
水業 (PPN )	300	3000
<b>安業</b>	5	· 50
<b><u></u> </b>	0.1	i
アルゴン	10	50
ヘリューム	10	50
メタン	5	50
エタン	· 0.1	0.5
エチレン ¨	0.1	0.5
プロパン	0.1	0.5
プロピレン	0.1	0.5
塩素化物	10	50
*	3	5.

これらを図べ にこのエピタキシェル成長をさせる場合、気相一固相反応の際、酸化物および変化物は偏折効果により、上記表1の約30分の1に小さくなる。このため比抵抗100 Ωc=以上の実質的真性の半導体を得ることができる。

しかし、100~400 セで行われるグロ―放電を 用いたプラズマ気相法においては、かかる物理格 製である不純物の傷折効果を期待することはでき ない

このため、表1の示す不純物はそのまま半導体中に混入してしまい、特に放棄および水についませ、すべてシランと反応し、反応生成物の酸化珪素を作る。シラン自体については、プラズマ反応により活性化(イオン化)が1~5 ×であり、そのため実質的にガス状態よりもさらに約20~30倍に繊維されて半導体膜中に2~4×10 mcm = 1 もの設度になって混入してしまうことがわかった。

このため、反応性気体をプラズマ気相法用に用いる時、その反応装置において精製することがき わめて重要であることが実験的に判明した。

かくして、本発明においては、AM1 にて変換効率を10%以上保証するために、その1 層中に酸素は5×10°co<sup>-9</sup>以下とし、さらにクラスタ状に混入した炭素においても、4×10°co<sup>-9</sup>以下好ましくは1×10°co<sup>-9</sup>以下であることがきわめて重要である。かかる半導体の高純度化を本発明は目的としている。

以下に関面に従って示す。

第1回は本発明の半導体装置の作製に用いられた製造装置の振襲を示す。

図面において、反応炉(1)(直径35es+) に対し、外部加熱炉(21)、基板(22)、一対をなす環境(3)(3)、高周放発報器(2)(例えば13.56HBzまたは100EBz)、さらに反応性気体の活性化、分部を行うための16Ez以上の周放数のマイクロ放例えば2.45GBz の発掘器(17)、アテニュエイター(18)を有している。

セラミックス(19)で保護された放出部から、 0.001 ~10terrに保持された反応炉(1)へマイ クロ被を放出させた。反応炉全体は電線報告のな いようにシールド (20) がなされ、反応性気体により基板 (22) 上に半導体膜を形成させるに探し、電気エネルギの電界は、被形成面に平行に層波を有するように記憶されている。

反応性気体はキャリアガス例えば酸素、水の不純物は1ppb以下好ましくは0.1ppbにまで下げた水素を(7)より導入させた。また、建業費を形成させようとする場合、遠化物気体であるシランを(4)より導入した。また、P型用不純物である水景により500~5000PPHに指釈されたフェスヒンを(6)より導入した。

で示されるものを用った。さらにこの後に、股股 業用のガスリーン(商品名GC-RX)を連結した。 これらはともに日化相工製を用いた。

さらにこれらの精製器の化学吸着性を向上させるため、-70 で~室温、例えば-30 でに電子恒温間(8)(9)(10) により冷却した。水素希訳されたフェスヒンについては、その有効分子径が約4.3人を有するため、3Aまたは4Aを用いた。またシランまたはジシランに対しては、3A、4A、4.5Aのいずれもが適応可能であった。

特にシランに対しては、その中にあってN化しやすい不能物である酸素以外に、フォスヒンがその濃度を0.01ppb 以下 (5×10° cm² 以下) にまで下げるため、4.5Aを用いることが特に有効であった。

排気系はニードルパルプ (25)、ストップパルブ (24)、真空ポンプ (23) を経て排気 (26) させた。 反応炉内の圧力はニードルパルブ (25) により 0.001 ~10torr代表的には0.05~0.1torr に制御した。

別2図は第 結果によって得られた特性である。即ち、基板温度250 で、反応が内の圧力0.1 torrとした時、基板例えばガラス上に非 結晶半

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torrとした時、基版例えばガラス上に非 結晶半 導体暦を1月の厚さに形成した場合の先割射(AB

1) 伝導度、暗伝導度である。

図面において、シランに対しかかる符製を行わない場合、前記した如くのボンベ内での不挑物が そのまま半導体層内に入り、特に酸素または炭素 はシリコンを非基質化する作用効果がある。

このため、先伝導度の曲線(29)、略伝導度の曲線(30)を得た。即ち、図面において20~30 Wの高周波出力において、光伝導度は10 = (Gcm)アのオーダを有するが、同時にこの時半導体が一部秩序性を育する半非晶質化する。このためこの半導体中の不統物である酸素がドナーセンタとなり、N型化して、略伝導度(30)も10 = (Gcm)アのオーダになってしまう。結果として、実性率導体として用いんとする場合は、逆の不統物であるまたは1~3×10 ncm の で の で の で で で で の で に で の で に で で と と い し い し に し い し に し い し い し に し の に し の に し か し に し の に し か し に し の に し の に し の に し の に し か し に し の に し の に し の に い の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に し の に い

れらはいずれにおいても、曲線(29)より明らか なごとく、光伝導度を10~~10~(ccm)。のオーダ にまで下げてしまう。

かかる従来の方法ではなく、本発明はシラン中の不純物特に酸素、水または炭化水素を搭載(第1四(11)(14))して十分輸去するとともに、ボンベにシランを充填するに限しても、十分なる搭製をして充填したものである。

かくのごとく水を含む酸素を精製除去することにより、第2回において光麗射伝導度(27)、略伝導度(28)を得ることができた。

この図面より明6かなごとく、元伝導度がプラズマ放電出力が  $1 \sim 10$  W の係いプラズマエネルギの領域において、 $10^{-1}$  G ca ア以上と大きく、加えて略伝導度が $10^{-10} \sim 10^{-10}$  G ca アと小さい。

即ち、真性卓球体として 「糖性エネルダは十分 大きく、フェルミレベルもほぼほど 2 1 01 07を育せしめることができた。

さらにこ 住を聞べてみたところ、X線目析像において襲い結晶化が5~10岁で得られる放放

の一部においてみられ、これらはアモルファス構 本と結晶化構造の中国構造のセミアモルファス (半弁品質) 半導体といえるものであった。

即ち、真性半導体をプラズマ気相法により100~300 で例えば250 でで得ようとすると、その時このシラン中の不純物が単なるCTD またはアクキシェル成長に比べて30~100 倍もの譲渡に入入りですい。そのため、山発材料中の不純物の浸入り可能なかぎり少なくした超高純度シランを同じない出力においても、時伝導度が小さく、、のとのは全種品の10~(ace)"に近い10~~10~(ace)"の値を得ることができた。

特にかかる低い高期放出力で得られることは、 本発明のごとくPIE 接合を指次P層、I層、N層 と複層するに際し、その境界領域を面として明確 にするため、即ちP層上にI層を複層する際、そ の放電 P層をスペッタ(接傷)する効果により 下地P層を叩き、混合層をモー界面PI接合界面に ってしまうことを防ぐことができ、きわめて食 要である。

さらに第2図において、2.45GHz のマイクロ波 を加えると、反応性気体のイオン化率を高めるた め、その特性は間様であったが、被膜の成長速度 が約3~5倍に増し、大きくすることができた。

例えばシランを30cc/分、0.1torr で導入し、 高周波プラズマのみでは1~3人/秒と低かった が、この場合は10~15人/秒と高速成長させるこ とができた。

第3図は木発明のシランの精製に関し、ガス精 馭葛の育効性を確認する実験をしたものである。

関面において、複雑は酸素または炭素の被膜中 の濃度を示し、これはFTIR(フーリエ変換方式の 赤外線吸収スペクトル) で貫べたものであり、縦 論は光照射時の電気伝導度を示す。 🌞

さらに 1×10 ca 型以下の不施物濃度に関して は、SIMS(カメカ社製3F型)を用いて測定をして 調べた。その絶対量の補正は非島質シリコンにイ オン让入法により特定の让入量(例えば l ×10° cm³)を添加し、これをSIMSにて測定し、そのィ

オン強度によりく

シラン系に脱酸素格製器 (14) ゼオライト (11) をともに用いた場合、曲線 (45)(46) が得られる。 曲線(45)は炭素濃度が3×10 <sup>32</sup> cm <sup>- 3</sup> 混入した 時の脱酸素化を行った時の酸素濃度をパラメ――タ とした際の特性であり、また血線(46)は酸素濃 度 1 × 10 m cm = (60)、3 × 10 m cm = (61) 混入し た場合、伝導度は10™~10™(gcm)プレかなく、特 に酸素の混入が伝導度の低下をもたらす収因であ ることがわかる。

さらに図面については、血線(41)、(42)は放業 渡度 3 × 10 m cm = 、 炭素濃度は 4 × 10 m cm = を含 有したものであって、それぞれ炭素濃度、酸素濃 度をパラメ―タとして示している。即ち特に敵者 を 5 ×10° cm\*以下(43)とすることにより、光 電気伝導度は10<sup>-1</sup> (gcm) のオーダを、また暗伝導 度は10<sup>+1</sup>(gcm)\*のオーダを期待することができる。

蒸版の進度を250 でより200 で、150 でと下げ ると、約1/3ずつその伝導度は低くなった。

これらの股票、炭素濃度とするには、シラン中

の股素 (水) を0.03PPM 以下にすることがきわめ て重要であり、特に格量を上記室温ではなく、O ~-30 でとすると、酸素不純物濃度は0.01PPM, 0.003PPNにまで下げることができる。また、排気 系をクライオポンプ引きとすることにより反応が 内の現存水を0.1PPN以下 (10 lorr以下の到達几 空度とする)とし、さらに油の逆域散を防いだ。

その結果、CallaはO.1PPH以下にまで下げること ができた。さらに出発シラン(取シランともいう) として液化・気化の物理格製したシランを加いる と、質量分析器にてまったく測定不可能である。 また形成された半導体層中の酸素、炭素濃度も、 .それぞれ5×10°。 4×10°cm\*以下となり、SI #8の検出展界を越えることができた。 しちろん以 上のごとき高純度とするには、多1回に示された 反応系においても、そ 反応がを合む全体 リー **ラ量は1×10™cc/sec 以下、好ましくは1×10** \*\*cc/sec 以下とすることが意要であり、ジョイ。 ント等の工夫も重要であることを付配する。

第4回は第1回 製造装置を削いて形成したも

ので、図面(A)はガラス基板(32)上に透明導 電膜 (33)、さらにP型旋化珪素 (SixC<sub>i=</sub> O<x < 1)(例えばx +0.8) またはP型建業半導体 (34) により100 人の早さに形成した。さらにこの後こ の反応系モクライオオンプ (45) にて十分 (10\* torr以下) 真空引きをした後、相談したシランに より真性半導体景を0.5 # の厚さに (31) として 形成した。さらに再び真空引きをしてN型半導体 度(35)をシランにメタンを混入してSlick ェー 0.9 とし、さらにフォスヒンを1%の過度に混入 して200 人の厚さに形成した。この後反射性危極 例えば公知の奴またはアルミニュ―ム(36)を真 空幕者して及けたものである。

斉周被出力は5W、基板温度200 でとした。する と変換効率10.3%を得ることができた。

このガラス基板 特性をさらに改良するため、 節 4 顧 (B) 標准 PIR 接合型光電道換益型を作

起端において、ステンレス基板 (32) 上にP型 体層 (34)、1 型半導体層 (33)、N 型 ・繊維接

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造を有する多粒品型 日 (35) を知 1 図の塩産により、それぞれ200 人,0.5 μ,150人の好さに形成した。さらに透明導電膜 (43) を170 (放化インジューム (酸化スズ 0 ~10%)) を真空選挙し、アルミニュームの補助電艦 (36) を設けた。

以上の第4回(B)の構造において、真性半導体質に混入した酸素温度をパラメータとしたその 光電変換装置の変換効率特性を第5回に示す。

酸素濃度が 5 × 10 ° cs \* 以下特に 1 × 10 ° cs \* 以下になると、その変換効率 (49) はAN1 にて 1 dの面積にて12 %を違えることができた。またその曲線因子 (48) も0.7 を違え、また特に短路を液 (47) も最高20mA/dを得ることができるようになった。開放電圧は0.88~0.93 V であった。やはり酸素濃度が小さくなり、シリコンをよりシリコンらしく作ることにより大きな特性向上が見られた。

邪(図(B)の実施例において、N型半導体層 を結構構造を育する多結晶半導体とし、それを200 ~250 での低温で作ることに関しては、木発明人 の出願になる作 57―087801 (57.5.24 ) に示されている。

第6回、第7回は光電変換装置の信頼性を考慮 した時にきわめて重要な信頼性特性を評価をした ものである。

第7回は、I型半導体中の平均酸素濃度が5×

10° c≡ プの場合の光電変換装置の特性を示す。

第 6 箇に示す血線(50)に対応して光照射(AM 1 )を 2 時間行うとかえって特性が向上がみの曲 線(51)が得られた。さらに西アニールを行うと 画線(52)がわずかに変化したにすぎなかった。

このことにより、1型半導体層中の不純物としての設果の過度がきわめて特性安定(労化防止)化に重要であることが判別した。加えてその設立の投資であることが判別した。さらにこの光型が分別では、2 テブラ・ロンスキ効果)はその設定をであることが判別した。さらにより高値観性をといった。加えて第5世紀できた。加えて第5世紀では、変換が単(曲線(49))が向上する。これは1型半導体層の設備のでは、2 世界の中心が減少し、よールの拡散器が大きくなり、メリールの対象器が大きななり、メリールの対象器が大きななり、メリーの中心が減少し、よールの拡散器が大きななり、メリールの対域の中心があるが、5×10° ca または1型半導体の原金体にわけた場合、全くの劣化が示されない先

電変換装置を作ることができる。

以上のごとく、本発明は酸素、炭素濃度特に不 純物としての酸素を少なくしていけばいくほど先 電変換装置として変換効率が向上し、かつ信頼性 も向上することを見いだし、その実用的な酸素不 純物が5×10° cm²以下好ましくは1×10° cm² 以下であることを見いだしたものである。

以上の以別において、PIN 接合を1接合を有する光電変換装置を示したが、これを望ねてPINPIN・・・PIN 接合と少なくとも3接合とせしめることも本発別の応用として重要であり、またこれらを指述表面を有する基板上に集積化してもよい

また、これまでの説明においては遠化物気体としてシラン特にモノシランを示した。しかしかり ランを対しても本発明は有効であり、 遠化物気体を物理権制することはその分子性が大きいまた、 遠母の角化物例大ばSIF に関しても関機にその分子性が 5 人と大きいため、 イルマニュームに関しては、ゲルマニュームに関しては、ゲルマ

ン (GoH<sub>+</sub>) を用い、非単な 光導体としてSixGo<sub>log</sub> (O 🗸 👉 ) またはGo PIN 投合が有する I 型半導体層に用いることも可能である。

以上の説明においては、PIN 接合を1つ有する 光電変換装置を主として説明をした。しかし半導 体間がNIまたはPI投合を少なくとも1つ有する即 ちN (ソースまたはドレイン) 1 (チャネル形成 領域) N (ドレインまたはソース)、PIP 接合を有 する格段ゲイト型電界効果半導体装置、またはNI PIN,PINIP 接合を有するトランジスタに対しても 本発明はきわめて有効である。

#### 4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本類別の半導体装置作製用のプラズマ気相反応炉の概要を示す。

第2図は本発明で得られた特性および従来の其 性半導体の電気特性を示す。

第3回は本発明の反応性気体相製方法によって 得られた電気特性の変化を示す。

第4回は木発明の光電変換装置を示す。

第5回は第4回(B)によって仰られた光電変

換装置の指特性を示る

第 6 図は従来の光 大装置の定エネルギ分光 特性を示す。

第7回は本発明の光電変換装置の定エネルギ分 光特性を示す。

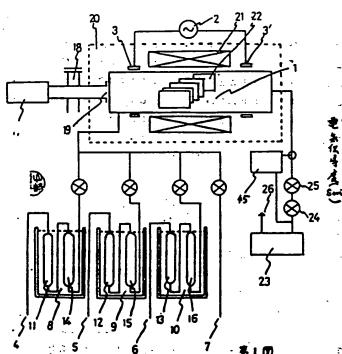
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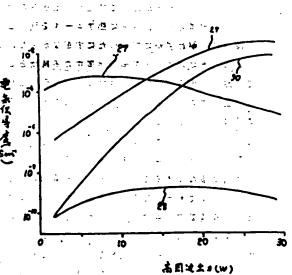
特許出題人

株式会社半導体エネルギー研究所 代表者 山 峰 舜 平

52.5。 - **男人郎 1**3.5。の実出のこからで、阿闍洋森保険。 と共戦権権を立っている。 20年末とらら来れるので

化自身带压制力机等 医多点病 经电压法 医电压压

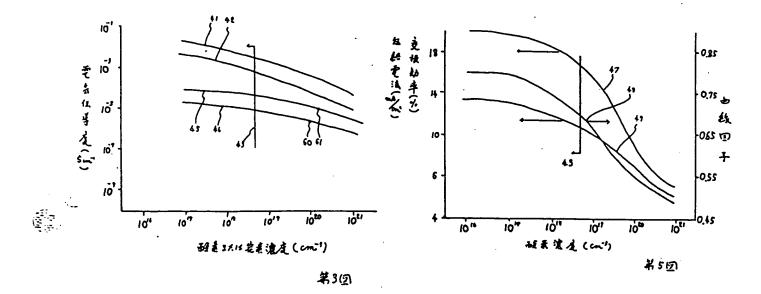




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